







The life of sainte
katheryne

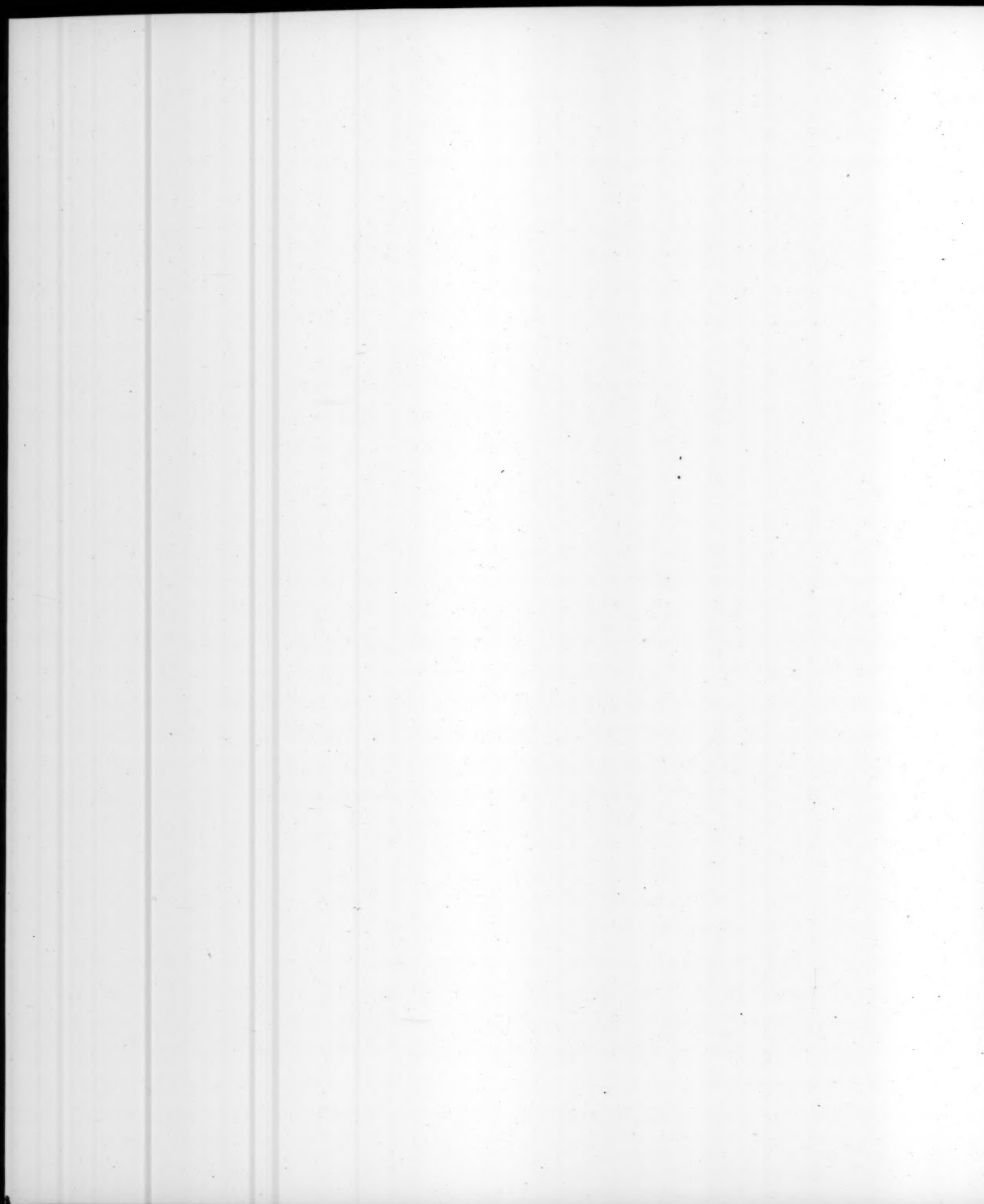




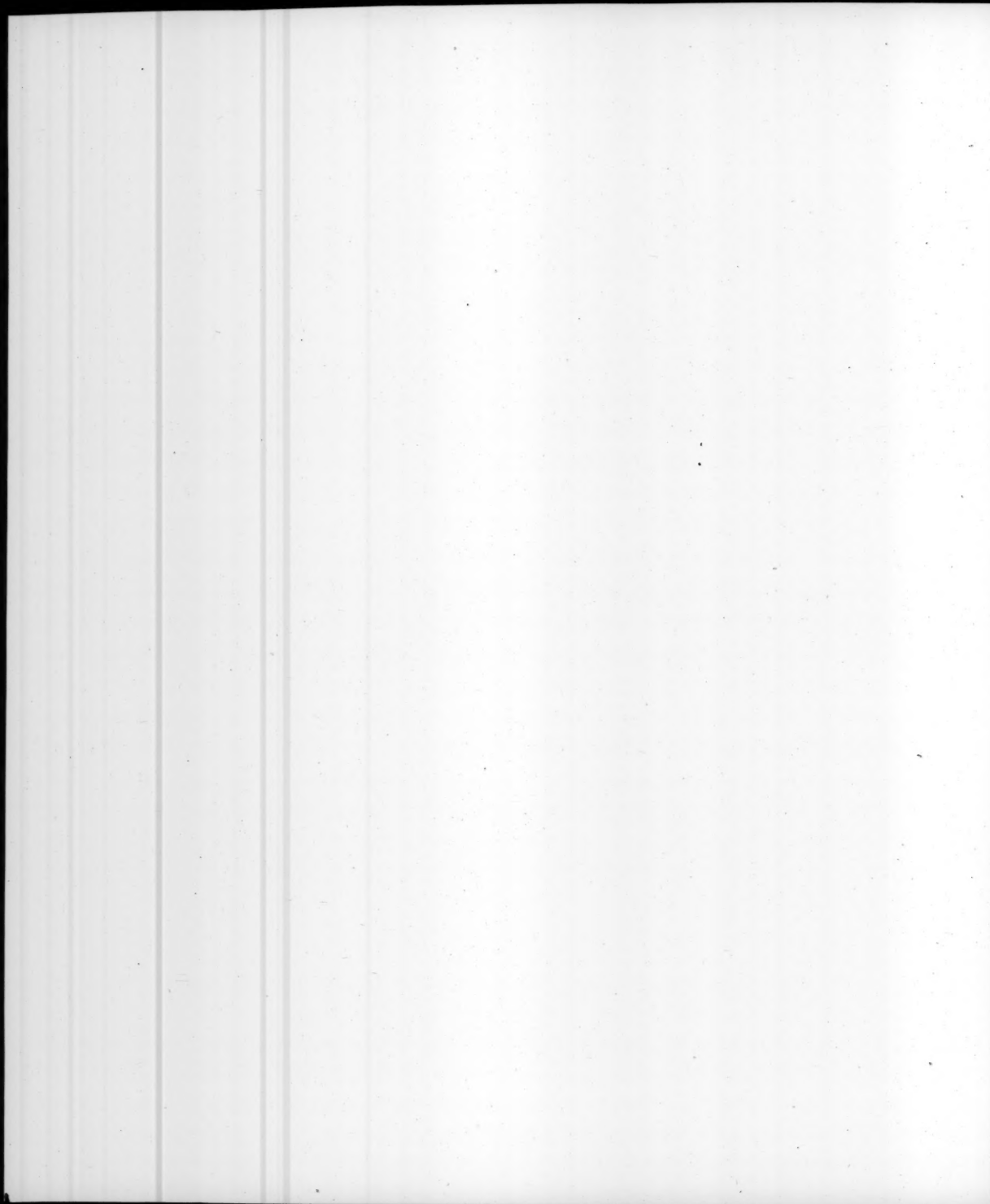
Here begynneth the ryghte excellent and
full gloruous lyfe and passyon of the ry-
ghte blyssed virgyn and martyre saynte
Katheryne.

The fyrst chaptre.

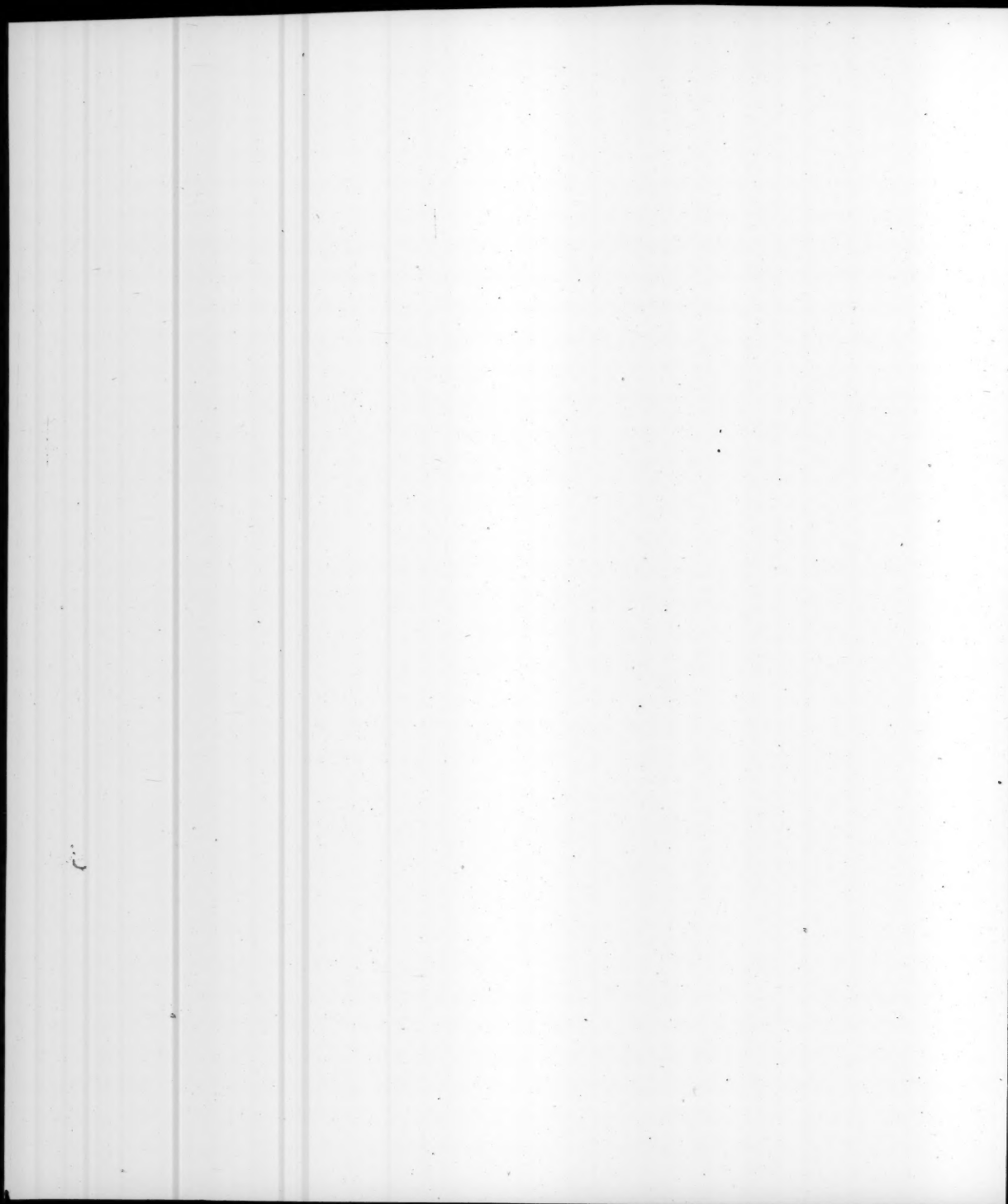
This blyssed virgyn saynt katheryn was by
the dyscent of the lyne and of the noble kyn
rede of the Emperoure of Rome/as it shalle be des-
clared moze playnly here after/by a noble cronycle
whiche moost blyssed lyfe and conuersacyon was
wrote of the solépné doctour Athanasius that knew
hir byrth hir kynred hir holy lyfe & conuersacyon.
And this same Athanasius was oone of hir may-
sters in hir tender age/and by the gracc of the holy
gost she was couerted to the faith. And after that
she was couerted/she couerted the same athanasi-
us by holy and meruelous werkes that oure lord
wrought in hir. and after by his wysdom he was
made billhop of Alisandrie/ & was a gloruous pyler
of holy church/by the grace of oure lord god & his
holy meritis/as we do fynde by credible cronycles
for in the tyme of the emperour Dioclesian & mari-
mian/so great & cruel tyranny was shewed in the
worlde & not only of cristen but also of paynymes
that in y^e tyme many a realme that was subget to
rome put away the yok of ther seruage & openly re-
belled aienst the emperour amōge which the realme
of Crimony was one of the mooste that myghtely



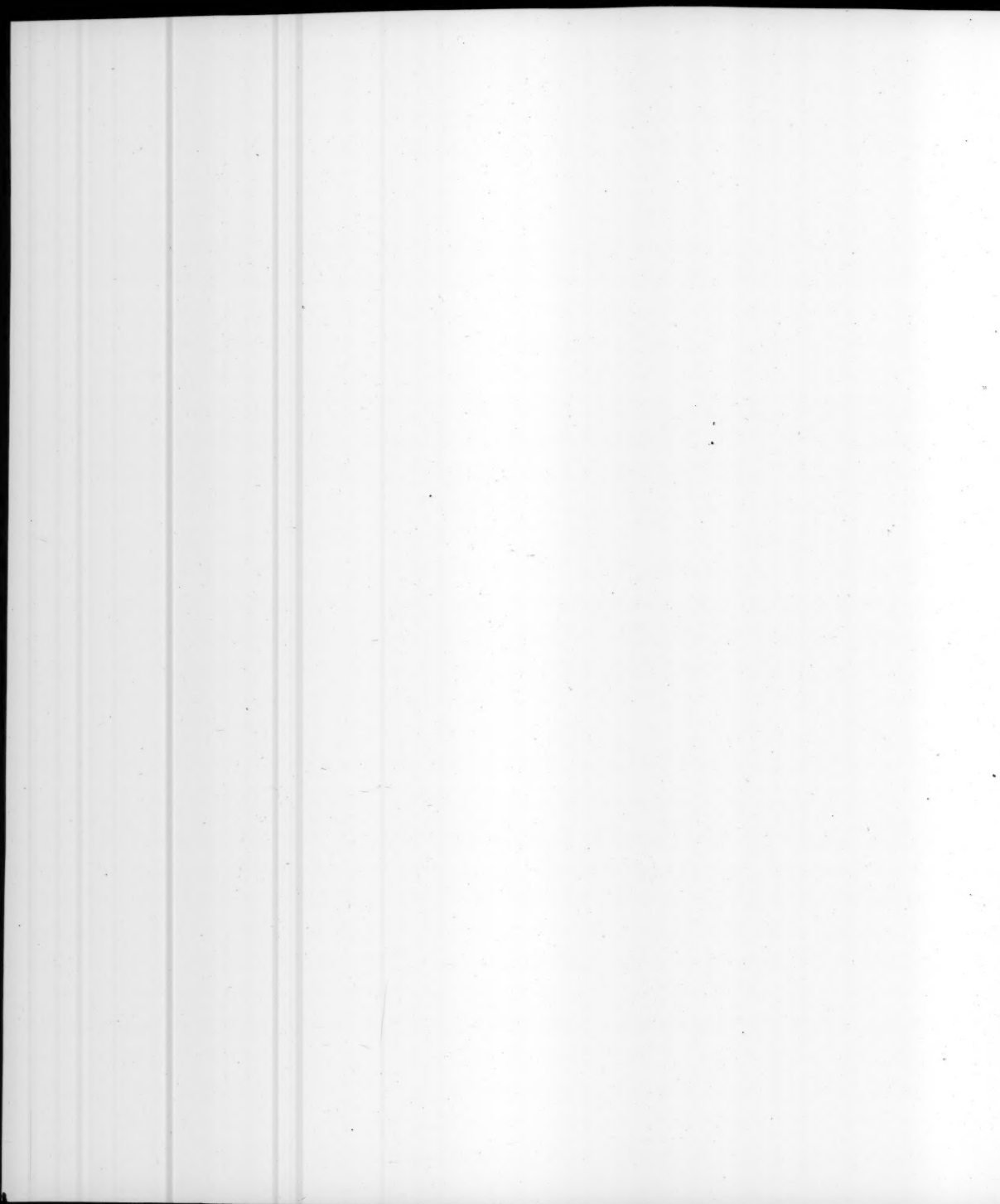
Withstode the tribute that longed to the emperour
of rome wherfore ther was chosen to appeas that re
bellyon a lord of greate dygnyte of the counseyle
of highe constancius which was afore al other man
ly in armes/ and therwith right discrete and fulle
of vertues. The which lord then whanne he cam
in to Crimony staunched so by hys vertue and man
lye gouernaunce that rebellyon / that he deserued
the loue of all his ennemyes/ soo ferfurthe/ that the
kyng and alle his people desyred that he shulde
wedde the doughter and the heire of the lande and
whāne this was doone within a whyle after the
kyng of Crimonie dyed/ & constancius was crow
ned kyng of that lande the which within a while
after had a son by the quene the which was clepid
costus And sone after that died the quene for whō
was made great lamentacion of hir people. After
whos deche constancius the kyng tourned agayne
to Rome for to se the emperours welfare/ and for
to se & knowe howe his lordeshyppes were gouer
ned in tho partyes. and in the mene tyme came ty
dynges to the emperour of Rome howe that greate
brytaine that now is called Englonde rebellyd
agaynst the emperour of Rome. wherfore it was
sene amonge the counsell that it was to requyre con
stancius the kyng of Crimonie to take on hym for to
redresse that rebellyon. the which request he god
granted & drew him towarde tho parties & in
comynge he ruled hym self by his vertue & prudence



Wherfore we be in derkenes & tyl the light of grace
come we may not se the clere waye. and Iohanne
hym lyst to come he shal voyde away the dark clo-
thes of ignorance. & she we hym clerely to me whi-
che I so feruently desyre and loue. And if so be that
hym lyst not that I fynde hym / yet reason com-
maundeth me to kepe hole that is vnhurt. wherfo-
re I beseeche you humbly my lady my moder that
ye ne noone other neuer meue moore of this matre
For I byhyghte you playnely that for to dye ther-
fore I shalle neuer haue other but oonly hym that
I haue dyscryuyd / to whome I shall truely kepe
al the pure loue of my herte. And with this she ro-
se vp and hir moder & all the lordes frome the par-
liament. And with great sorowe and lamentacion
they toke ther leue & went on their way. & at that
the yonge lady went home vnto hir paleys whose
herte was so set on fyre with thys husbonde. She
had dyscryued that she coude no thinge thynke
do but all hir mynde & hir intencion was only on
hym. wherfore she stodyed & mused contynually
howe she myght fynde hym but it wold nat be as
yet / forsoth she had no meanes therro. For with-
standinge he was full nere hir herte. for he it was
that had kynled hir herte wyth a brennyng fyre of
loue that shulde neuer be quenched by no peynone
tribulacion which was wel sene in his glo-
rious passion hereafter.

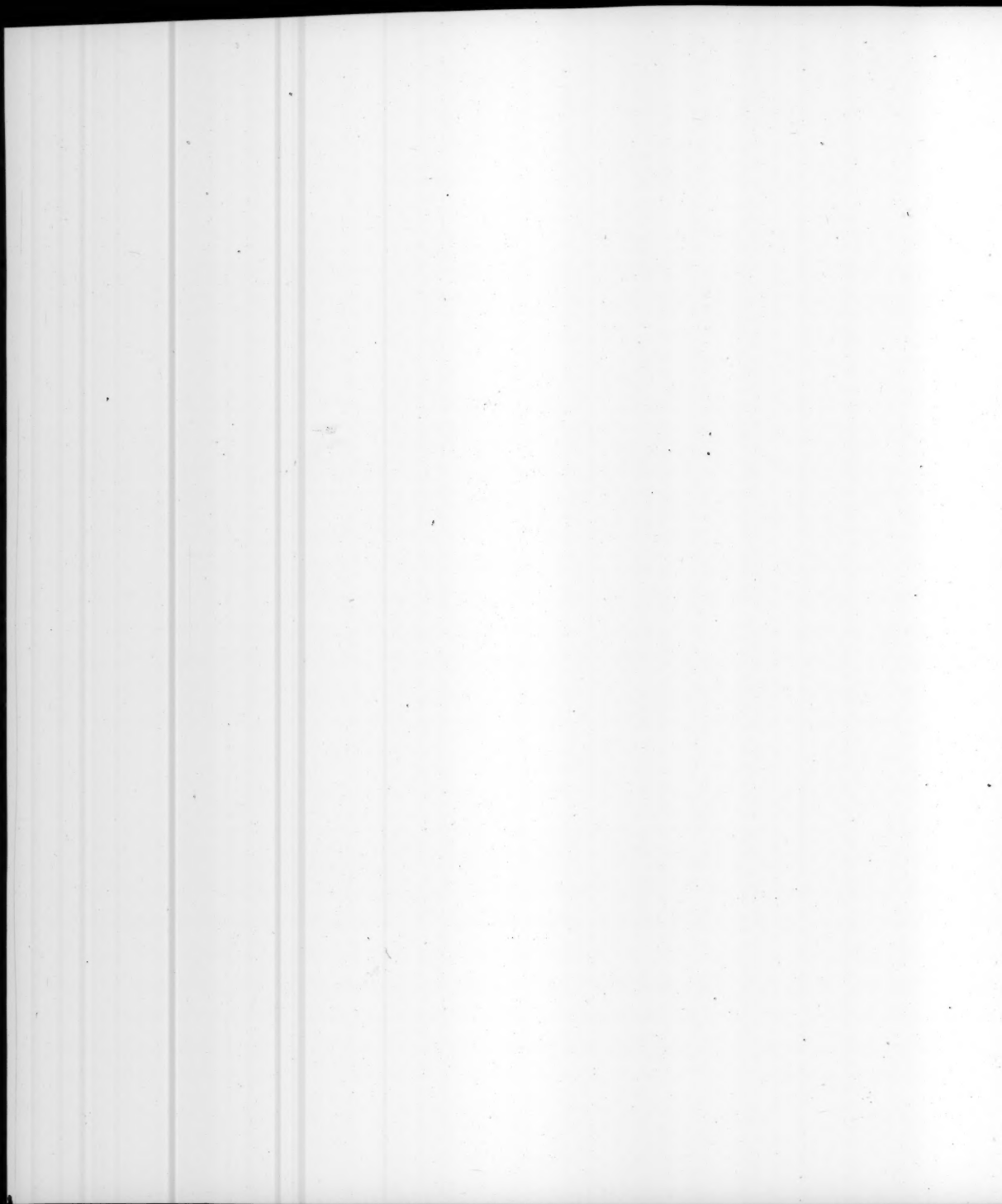


¶ Ere I leue this yonge queene as for a tyme
lytting in hir palyce cōtynually thinking
and ymagynynge howe she myght fynde
this netwe spouse with many a tere of elongacyon
and many a soze syghe/ for hir blynde ignoraunce
and now I shall turne as our lord wyl gyue me
grace to she we howe oure lord by hys speciall my
racle clepyd hir to baptyme/ in a synguler manere
hat neuer was herd of befoze ne sith & after howe
ye wedded hir visibly i a glorious maner/ she wige
hir soueraigne tokens of loue/ that neuer was she
wid to none erthly creature saue only to oure lady
his blessyd moder. ¶ Welyde Alexander a certeyn
space of myles ther dwelte an holy fader in deserte
that hight Adrian the which had serued oure holy
fader almyghty god the space of. xxx. yere in grea
te penaunce. And on a daye as he walked byfooze
his celle in meditacion/ ther cam agaynst hym the
most reuerēt lady that any erthly creature myght
beholde. and whan the heremyte bihelde hir most
excellent estate/ and hyghe beaute aboue kynde he
was so soze astoned and dredefull that he fyl dowe
ne as dedde. Thanne this blessyd lady seynge hys
great drede/ cleped him goodly by his name & said
broder Adrian drede ye not for I am not come to
you but for your great wo:shyp honour & profyte
with that she toke hym by the hand myldly & co
forted hym & saide to hym in this wise. Adrian ye
must go on a message to the cyte of Allisaundre for



me and into the palyes of the yonge Quene & ther
ye must say to hir that that lady gretethe hyr well
Whose son she chace to hir lord and husbonde syt
tinge in hir parlement with hir moder and all hyr
lordes aboute hir where she had a greate confly
te and batayle in keepinge of hir virgynyte/ and tel
hir that the same lord that she dyd chese there ys
my son that am a clene virgyn and he desyret h
beaute and he loueth hir chastite amonge all vir
gyns in erthe/ & byd hir without tarynge that she
come with you alone into this place and she shal be
newe clothed and than she shall see hym/ and has
ue hym to hir everlastinge spouse. The heremyte
heringe all this/ answered thus. O blessed Lady
howe shulde I do this message. for nouthur I kn
owe the cite ne the wey and what am I though I
knewe it for to doo suche a message vnto the quene
Hir meny woll nat suffre me to come vnto hir pre
sence: and she woll nat beleue me of my message.
but put me in duraunce as though I were a fay
ture. **A**dryan saide this blessyd Lady drede ye
nat for that that my son hath begonne in hir mis
nedis be perfourmed: for wete ye well she is a spe
cyall chosyn vessel of grace befoze all other women
wherfore tary nat ne drede nat. For bothe ye shall
knowe the cite and also the wey into hyr palyes
for there shall no creatur take hede to you.

And whan ye come into hir palyes take goode
hede whiche doores open agaynst you/ and enter in



boldly tyll that ye come vnto this faire yonge que
ne whome ye shall fynde alone in hir stodye stody
inge full soze in hir wittis of that that woll nat be
wherfore my son hath compassyon on hir labour
and for hir goode wyll she shal be specially fed wth
his grace that was neuer none lyke to hir / outake
myn owne pson that am his owne moder. wher
fore Adryan hys you fast & bringe me my dere dou
ghter that I loue with all myn herte. And whan
Adryan had receyued hys messlage / he layde hym
downe flatte before hys souerayne lady saynge in
this wyse. All worshyp & Joy be to my lord god
your blessyd son. & your blessyd wyll be fulfylled &
I woll go at your comaundement.

CThe vii. chapter.

And anone adrian rose him vp & hied him fast
to the cyte of alisader & passed the desert and
so furth tyll he came to the cyte / and soo he wente
furth to the paleys as he had lerned so dyd he / and
entred in at the dozes the whyche opened ageynste
hym / & so he yode from chamber to chaumber tyll
y^e he cam to the secrete stody where as no creature
used to come but she hir self alone / & whan that he
entred in at the doze he sawe where sate the fairest
creature & the most goodly y^e any creature myght
beholde / and she sate so sadde in hir stody that she
herde hym nat vnto the tyme that he kneled hym